Dedicated Rail Freight Corridor from New Delhi to Mumbai

1814. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has cleared and decided to build a dedicated rail freight corridor from New Delhi to Mumbai with Rs. 17,700 crores loan from Japan to fund the project;

(b) if so, the salient features of the said corridor project; and

(c) the steps taken in pursuance of the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government has approved the construction of the Dedicated Freight Corridor from Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai to Dadri near Delhi with Japanese funding. The funding for Phase-I from Vadodara to Rewari is estimated at Rs.17,700 Crores.

(b) Western Dedicated Freight Corridor Project envisages a 1483 Kilometers, double line, electrified railway track from Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai to Dadri near Delhi. The Corridor will be suitable for running of larger and heavier trains to cater mainly to the container transport requirements to and from the existing and emerging ports in Maharashtra and Gujarat.

(c) Subsequent to the Government approval, an Engineering Services Loan Agreement was signed with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and process for engagement of Engineering Services Consultants has been initiated.

Introduction of more Duranto trains

1815. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government is shunting Rajdhani trains and introducing more Duranto trains in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other routes on which Duranto trains are going to be introduced in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to do away with Rajdhani Express.

(c) 5 pairs of Duronto trains have been introduced. Duronto trains on the following routes are to be introduced during the year 2009-10:

1. Delhi (Nizamuddin) - Secunderabad
2. Ernakulam - Delhi (Nizamuddin)
3. New Delhi - Jammu Tawi
4. Mumbai - Ahmedabad (AC)
5. Bhubaneswar – Delhi

6. New Delhi - Allahabad

7. New Delhi - Lucknow

8. Howrah - Delhi

9. Kolkata - Amritsar

Information on mobile phone about train positions

†1816. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to provide information to the passengers travelling in reserved coaches about position of the train *via* SMS on mobile subsequent to the trains leaving their originating station;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (c): There is no such proposal at present. However, Global position System (GPS) based on-board passenger information system has been tried out on select trains.

Status of tickets under waiting list through mobile phones

†1817. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to inform the passengers, having their tickets under waiting list about their status on mobile after finalizing the chart;

(b) whether Railways also proposes to pass the information to passengers on mobile *via* SMS about the last minute change in their ticket category due to upgradation which causes undue hardship to the passengers at station; and

(c) if so, by when it would be implemented and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (c) A pilot project on "SMS alert service for e-ticket customers" has been launched. In this service, "Ticket Booking Confirmation" irrespective of the status of booking is given to e-ticket customers. This service has since become available from the 2nd week of November 2009.

Status report sought by Prime Minister

1818. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister has sought a status report from Railways within a fortnight;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.